

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLYCOUNTRY East Germany25X1 REPORTTOPIC Soviet Supply Installations in the Eberswalde-Finow-Biesenthal Area

614782

EVALUATION

25X1

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

25X1

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 10 March 1954

REFERENCES

25X1

PAGES

5

ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

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REMARKS

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1. In mid-December 1953, a cantonment housing the former main depot was located at Eisenspalterei railroad station between Eberswalde and Finow. It included 2 administrative buildings, 7 other low cantonment buildings, each of 12 x 40 meters, 3 motor vehicle workshop buildings each 8 x 25 meters, 1 locksmith's shop, 1 carpentry and tailor shop, 1 guardhouse and 1 motor vehicle shed. The depot was under the command of a Soviet major whose personnel included about 20 Soviets and 120 Germans including 40 drivers. The depot motor pool included 15 trucks with 12 trailers and 2 prime movers. The installation received food stuff, textiles, articles of clothing, shoes, other household utensils and PX goods from the USSR and the German Cooperative Stores. Military posts served by this main depot included Barnau, Eberswalde, Finow, Frankfurt/Oder, Freienwalde, Fuerstenberg/Havel, Fuerstenwalde, Neubrandenburg, Neuruppin, Neustrelitz, Parchim, Oranienburg, Pasewalk, Prenzlau, Schwerin, Strausberg and Templin. 1

25X1 2. [ ] in mid-December 1953, the daily potatoe ration for about 20,000 soldiers in the posts of Eberswalde, Freienwalde and Barnau was 20 tons. 2

3. In mid-January 1954, a small Soviet depot including a factory hall of about 20 x 30 meters and 5 small, low buildings, each 8 x 15 meters, was located south of Biesenthal railroad station, just west of the railroad line. Six watch towers were erected around the depot. On 16 January, 4 x 85-mm AT guns with limbers, presumably of type IA 12 were unloaded at the depot. 3

4. A Soviet repair shop and armory were located about 40 meters southwest of Biesenthal railroad station on 26 November 1953. Five 85-mm AT guns were parked near a low building. The installation was operated by about 100 soldiers. 3

5. At the end of November, the ration supply depot in Eberswalde was vacant. The depot moved to Finowfurt. 4

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7. In December 1953, a Soviet fuel depot headed by a major and which had been built about 18 months ago was located northeast of Biesenthal railroad station. About 26 tanks with a capacity of 15 cubic meters each were dug in in the depot and 2,000 to 3,000\*200-liter barrels were stored in the depot area. A small percentage of incoming fuel was redispached by rail, while most of the fuel was stored at the depot to be picked up by tank trucks and trucks. The guard unit included about 30 soldiers who wore black epaulets.

8. The following is a list of rail shipments which arrived at, or were dispatched from, the depot in Biesenthal between 10 December and 15 January:

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Number of Cars</u>	<u>Load</u>	<u>From</u>	
25X1	December 15	8 tank cars	gasoline	Velten,	
	" 18	3 " "	"	"	
	" 22	4 " "	"	"	
	" 23, 25	4 " "	"	"	
	January 2	1 " "	"	"	
	" 13	2 " "	"	"	
25X1	" 7	3 boxcars	50-liter oil barrels	"	
	" 12	3 " "	" " "	Schleife	
	" 13	1 " "	200-liter oil barrels	"	
	" 9	5 tank cars	gasoline	Altstrelitz	
				<u>To</u>	
25X1	December 10	1 tank car	gasoline	Prenzlau,	
	" 13	2 tank cars	"	Velten,	
25X1	" 16	1 tank car	"	Satzkorn,	
	" 19	1 tank car	"	Altstrelitz,	
25X1	" 20	1 " "	"	Prenzlau,	
	" 23	2 tank cars	"	Fuerstenwalde,	
25X1	" 28	1 tank car	"	Frankfurt/Oder,	
	" 31	2 tank cars	"	Altstrelitz,	
25X1	January 4	2 tank cars	"	Prenzlau	
	" 8, 10	2 tank cars	"	Fuerstenwalde,	
25X1	" 15	1 boxcar	50-liter oil barrels	Frankfurt/Oder,	

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10. Several low, temporary buildings were constructed in the artillery depot southwest of Biesenthal railroad station in early December. About 70 x 85-mm AT guns with straight shield and long barrel with muzzle brake were unloaded at the depot in mid-December, having arrived by rail from Frankfurt/Oder. In mid-January, 60 AT guns were parked in the depot area. A total of about 125 guns were parked in the depot at that time. On 19 January, 15 trucks

25X1 [redacted] were parked at the installation. The depot was guarded by about 45 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. The following rail shipments arrived at, or were dispatched from, the ordnance depot between 10 December 1953 and 15 January 1954:

Date	Load	From	To
10 December	2 B of military goods	Biesenthal,	Finow, [redacted]
10 "	50 x 85-mm AT guns	[redacted] undetermined	Biesenthal, [redacted]
25 "	3 B with military goods	Jueterbog	"
27 "	9 B " " "	Fuerstenwalde	"
24 "	2 B " " "	Biesenthal	Jessen
15 January	30 F with 60 AT guns	Frankfurt/Oder	Biesenthal, [redacted]
10 "	3 B with military goods	Biesenthal	Frankfurt/Oder 3

11. Between 13 December and 7 January, 6 boxcarloads of articles of clothing were sent to [redacted] Rosengarten, by the VEB (nationalized plant) in Biesenthal. Uniforms in want of repair were frequently sent to Biesenthal from Rosengarten. 7
12. A Soviet detail of about 10 soldiers wearing blue collar patches was quartered in two villas near Biesenthal railroad station in late December. This detail redispaches ammunition shipments for Biesenthal-Vorwerk ammunition depot which erroneously arrive in Biesenthal instead of Finow. 8
13. At the beginning of January 1954, a Soviet ordnance or ammunition depot was located southwest of Biesenthal railroad station. The installation included 4 brick buildings and was entered from the south through a fenced-in area with a three-sectional brick building. 3
14. The Soviet armory on Steinfurther Strasse in Finow moved into an installation just southwest of Biesenthal railroad station in August 1953. 3 It appeared that, in late November 1953, the weapon spare part depot from Angermuender Strasse was also quartered there in addition to the armory. Several officers known from Steinfurther Strasse and Angermuender Strasse were regularly seen at the installation in Biesenthal. Frequent trips by Major Bvalazov (fnu), the head of the armory, to the Waldeslust ammunition depot indicated that the armory as well as weapon spare part depot were subordinate to the ammunition depot. 3
15. In the fall of 1953, soldiers from the Waldeslust ammunition depot erected chimneys in the cantonment of the vacated Soviet weapon spare part depot on Angermuender Strasse in Finow. In early January 1954, the cantonment was occupied to capacity by Soviet troops. About 100 soldiers daily marched from Angermuender Strasse toward the ammunition depot, giving [redacted] the impression that the guard and administrative personnel of the ammunition depot was quartered on Angermuender Strasse. The 16 officers of the ammunition depot were still billeted on Muehlen Strasse.

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16. The Soviet ammunition depot Waldeslust was not among those installations in Finow which were vacated in August 1953. It only furnished vehicles for the transfer of the armory and weapon spare part depot. The ammunition depot was still operated by 16 officers and about 120 EM, with the depot proper apparently having quartered only the guard detail since January 1954. Ammunition was shipped to nearby units by truck and rail. For instance, several boxcarloads of ammunition were repeatedly observed en route to Wulkow, Satz Korn and other localities in the vicinity of the depot. 9
17. In August and September, the army ration supply depot was transferred from Eberswalde to the former sawmill in Finowfurth. The annex buildings of the ration supply depot in Eberswalde had also been vacated, while the clothing depot remained in Finowfurt. 4 In mid-November 1953, the field bakery in Finowfurth, south of the autobahn, seemed to have been occupied as before.
18. [ ] the motor vehicle spare part depot was separated from the motor vehicle repair shop when the latter was transferred from Max-Hesse Strasse in August 1953. One of the two units was said to have moved to Fuerstenberg. The location after the transfer of the motor vehicle repair shop could also not be determined.
19. No changes in the occupation occurred at the Soviet tank repair shop on Geschwister-Scholl Strasse up to late December 1953. Tanks were repeatedly seen moving out for test driving.
1. [ ] Comment. The depot in Eberswalde-Eisenspalterei is Commissary No 6 of the Soviet Trade Department whose missions, organization and location are known. [ ] It is of interest that Schwerin post is also served by this depot.
2. [ ] Comment. [ ] the daily ration rate included 500 grams of potatoes. As the figure of about 20,000 troops for three posts appears credible, it can be assumed that, in order to save grain, lard and meat during the food crisis in the GDR, the daily potato ration was increased up to 1,000 grams in December.
3. [ ] Comment. Information refers to the ordnance depot and armory of the Fourth Gds Mech Army which was transferred from Finow in August 1953. [ ] For pinpoint location [ ] The 85-mm AT guns observed by various sources serve the reequipping of Soviet units now under way. [ ] The motor vehicles parked at the installation belong to units of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army. Major Bralazov (fnu) is known as chief of the ordnance depot. Traffic relations definitely indicate that [ ] belongs to the ordnance depot of the Fourth Gds Mech Army rather than to the Waldeslust ammunition depot, as had so far been believed. As report confirms the transfer to Biesenthal of the ordnance and equipment depot from Finow, [ ] [ ]
4. [ ] Comment. Report again confirms the transfer of the ration supply depot from Eberswalde. [ ] According to the present information, the branch offices have also been moved to Finowfurt.

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- 25X1 5. [REDACTED]  
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- 25X1 6. [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] Report confirms previous  
25X1 assumptions, according to which the depot was estimated to have a capacity  
25X1 of 1,000 to 1,500 cubic meters. It is known from previous information that  
25X1 the installation is being currently refilled by the GOFG depot [REDACTED]  
25X1 at Velten. Fuel is issued predominantly to units of the Fourth Gds Mech Army.  
25X1 The motor vehicles mentioned belong to elements of the latter army.
- 25X1 7. [REDACTED]  
25X1
- 25X1 8. [REDACTED] Comment. Information probably refers to administrative personnel of  
25X1 the air force ammunition depot at Biesenthal-Vorwerk. [REDACTED]  
25X1 [REDACTED]
- 25X1 9. [REDACTED] Comment. Waldeslust ammunition depot is the army ammunition depot  
of the Fourth Gds Mech Army. Data on the strength of personnel there is  
given credence. The installations maintains regular traffic connections with  
the large GOFG ammunition depot [REDACTED] in Wulkow.

[REDACTED]

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